

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action dated September 25, 2006 ("Office Action") objected to Figures 2, 3 and 5, and rejected claim 1 as being anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) by DE 10717335 ("Maurizio"). In response to these objections and rejection, Applicants submit herewith amended drawings and also have amended claim 1. In addition, Applicants submit herewith additional claims 17-31.

1. Response to the Drawing Objections

In response to the Office Action's objections to Figures 2, 3 and 5, applicants have submitted replacement drawing sheets for all the Figures.

2. Response to the Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Applicants traverse the rejection of claim 1 as being anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) by Maurizio. This reference does not describe or teach the claimed invention, particularly as presently amended in claim 1.

Maurizio illustrates a pivot flap with a bendable lip that includes a "wound line." The wound line includes projections in the same direction and orientation as the lip. The so-called projections of Maurizio, which may be arranged either in a curve or saw tooth formation, are identical in thickness to the lip.

Claim 1, in contrast, recites a control valve with an overflowed edge that has a changing cross-sectional profile, which diverts at least a portion of the air flowing over the edge in the main flow direction into a plurality of stream directions deviating from the main flow direction. Maurizio does not describe this limitation.

To further distinguish Maurizio, however, Applicants have amended claim 1 to recite that the overflowed edge includes a plurality of flow bodies in the overflowed edge area. The flow bodies, as described in the specification at paragraph 13, generate turbulence and thereby divert at least a portion of the air flowing over the edge in the main flow direction into a plurality of deviating stream directions. Maurizio does not describe a structure in which flow bodies divert an air flow into a plurality of deviating stream directions.

Additional dependent claims, such as claims 18-20, further specify that a plurality of flow bodies are arranged on the valve at a predetermined angle in relation to the overflowing edge area. Claims 21 through 24 further define the invention such as that the overflowed edge is injection molded, the overflowed edge area includes a sealing edge that is capable of substantially closing an air flow path, the control valve includes reinforcing ligaments, and/or a second control valve is arranged adjacent to the first control valve on the same rotational axis. These claimed features are neither expressly nor inherently described by Maurizio.

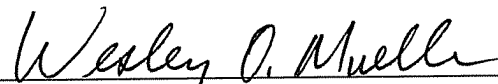
Applicants have further included new independent claims 25 and 26, which claim a substantially flat and curvilinear baffle as illustrated, for example, in Figs. 2 and 5. Applicants respectfully submit that these claims are neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by prior art approaches.

For all of the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1, as amended, is not anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) by Maurizio. Applicants further submit that claims 25 and 26-31 are also patentably distinct over the prior art.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that the patent application is in condition for allowance. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: March 26, 2007